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Springbrook Nature Center Receives Five Million Dollars for New Interpretive Center

Springbrook Nature Center is often described as a jewel of wilderness hidden within an urban setting. After being awarded a five million dollar grant from the State of Minnesota for a new interpretive center, this jewel is about to shine much brighter. New exhibits, expanded classrooms, visitor amenities and beautiful rental spaces will create an incredible resource for the people of Fridley.

For over a decade, a dedicated group of people from the City of Fridley and the non-profit Springbrook Nature Center Foundation have worked to create and implement the S.P.R.I.N.G. (Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation) Project. This comprehensive plan to revitalize the seven-acre park entrance and interpretive center at the Nature Center will allow the site to expand its programming, host weddings and events, and continue to provide world-class environmental education to an ever-growing audience.

After being awarded the grant, the City of Fridley and Springbrook Nature Center Foundation have been busy visiting sites to research designs and have worked with nationally known Split Rock Studios of Arden Hills to create an exciting conceptual design for the center's new exhibits. The designs feature a dramatic building entrance full of large sculptures recreating the park's wetlands.



Visitors will walk beneath huge cattails as they encounter frogs, ducks and turtles.

The proposed exhibits feature interactive elements for visitors of all ages. One concept is for a large cutout of a soil "cube." Visitors can walk around it, interacting with mushrooms and plants on top, see the roots and insects beneath and even crawl through it to discover the many organisms hidden within.

Beyond the concept designs, the next steps will be to interview and hire a project manager and architect to begin planning the new building for construction.

Nature Center Receives Grant, continued on page 8



Cheers to 40 Years: The Ruby Anniversary of '49er Days

Excitement brewed at '49er Days this year, especially on Saturday when sudden storms came in with a roar.

"Thank goodness we memorized the four winners, because the paperwork was blown away," says Mandy Meisner pie eating chair about the rain and winds overtaking their tent. But a little rain will not slow down our community. The pie contest winner was announced. Fridley resident Jackie Bollinger won the first place \$1,000 prize with her Blueberry Cream recipe.

The kids parade kicked off the Art & Music Festival shortly before the storms forced a move to the high school. Later, Chris Brooks (a Fridley HS alumn) & the Silver City Boys set up at the American Legion for the "street" dance and Fridley all-class reunion. Despite Saturday's mad dash for cover, the 40th year celebration of '49er Days was a huge success.

Pete and Linda Borman (with the help of their daughter, Kayla) kicked off the celebration on Thursday as the Grand Marshals of the '49er Days parade. It was a fitting

tribute to the couple, who have organized the parade for 16 years. The two-hour parade featured about 100 units, including eight marching bands and seven royalty floats. Fridley Ambassadors Natalie Bailey and Rachael Gabriellik waved their final goodbyes in the parade before passing the crowns onto the new Fridley Royalty at the Saturday pageant. Congratulations to Ali Bennett, Shelby Lindboe and Kylee Swendsrud who will represent Fridley at parades and special events for the coming year.

Festivities concluded on Sunday with the Hot Rod Car Show and the 2nd Annual Fridley Idol Contest. The contest coordinator, David Ulrich, describes two weeks of cut-throat karaoke preliminaries leading up to the final event. "Judges had some tough calls to advance the top 10, all of whom were vying for cash prizes and bragging rights as Fridley's newest singing sensation."

Fridley resident, Kathleen Fuery, took 2nd place and a \$200 cash prize. Top billing went to Chelsea Csargo of Minneapolis for a show-stopping performance of "At Last" and "Respect." ■

Fridley Commits to Partnering with Local Businesses

One of the greatest assets to any community is its existing businesses. In fact, more jobs are created through business expansions than new business start-ups. Fridley is dedicated to maintaining a vibrant community, and we want to understand and meet the needs of our existing businesses. This summer, we are launching a new Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Program.

We want to know what tools you need to be successful. The BR&E program will be an on-going effort to address business concerns, build community capacity to sustain growth, and develop and foster a relationship with our business community.

The program’s first step will be to hear from you. We are starting with a comprehensive survey to a random sampling of Fridley businesses representing all types of industries. If your business is chosen, your voice will help develop the structure of our program. What are your frustrations? Needs? What do you like? How can we help you achieve your goals? After surveys are returned to the City and reviewed, staff and elected officials will take the next step—a visit to each business. We can learn the most by sitting with you and discussing your responses, concerns and questions.

BR&E programs have proven to be effective throughout the State of Minnesota. We aim to achieve similar success through our own efforts. In the future, Fridley plans to conduct the survey and visit with every community business. By doing so, lasting relationships will be created and maintained to assist local businesses. A shorter, electronic version of the survey will also be sent out yearly to every business. This information will be used to identify trends and potential issues. Our goal is to continually assist and connect with all local businesses. ■

A New Look to Parts of Fridley

It is a busy summer for redevelopment in Fridley. By this time next year, several highly visible portions of the City will have a whole new look. Here are highlights of three of the current projects.

Northern Stacks

Groundbreaking at what is being called the Twin Cities’ largest infill commercial redevelopment kicked off with a ceremony in late May attended by public officials, including Governor Mark Dayton. Cleanup efforts are underway for this 122-acre site, no easy task given its history. You can still see the famous “E” with five stars painted on one of its smokestacks, symbolizing the Battle E award given by the Navy for



excellence and efficiency. Unfortunately, the manufacturing of gun turrets and barrels involved chemicals and solvents that were disposed of on-site and now makes redevelopment a challenge. Hyde Development was able to put together both private and public financing sources to make this possible, and phase one has begun. Construction currently consists of preparing areas for pavement, installing pipelines, and removing debris as they get ready for the first building, which should be constructed by the end of this year. The first new cul-de-sac street, a private truck access road, new signals and the beginning of landscape should also be completed this year. This project ultimately expects to create 3,000 jobs, with 10-12 new office and industrial buildings on the site.

Cielo Apartments

Three upscale apartment buildings along University Avenue will give the area south of 61st Avenue a welcome facelift. Building plans and all planning and zoning matters have been reviewed and approved. Early engineering reviews and the Fire Marshal’s review are also completed. Only the first of three construction phases will be completed this year, which includes replacing the existing chain link fence with an ornamental one designed to complement the



buildings. Phase one also consists of an architecturally-correct privacy fence to the east. Construction has been planned to assure that footings and other concrete work can commence before the on-set of cold weather.

Interlude on the Unity Hospital Campus

If you have driven by Unity lately, you may have noticed an impressive framework of concrete, iron and steel studs. The shape and scale of this new transitional care facility is now very evident. This is a state of the art therapy facility; where guests will have close access to the hospital without occupying a typical hospital room during on-going therapy. This three-story, 45,087 square foot building will consist of 38 private rooms, 2 semi-private rooms (2 beds in each unit) and 8 care units, for a total of 50 new skilled nursing beds in the building. A large therapy space for guest rehabilitation will be located on the first level.



The exterior of the building will complement the surrounding area of the hospital campus to the north and the residential area to the south across Lyric Lane. The architecture of the building was carefully designed with its neighbors in mind. The hospital end of the new building will have a commercial appearance, while the south end will have the appearance of a 3-story residential complex. The two distinct looks depend on what angle you view the building, yet work well together as a single cohesive structure. Construction is expected to be completed later this year. ■

Spotlight on Fridley HRA

We hear the term a lot, especially with all the recent expansion and construction in Fridley, but what exactly is an HRA?

HRA = Housing and Redevelopment Authority

This is a program developed in 1947 by the Minnesota legislature which allows cities to create a committee with the purpose of improving substandard conditions. These conditions are characterized by being in a state of disrepair, obsolete, overcrowded and a general faulty arrangement or design of buildings and improvements.

Fridley discovered their need for an HRA almost 50 years ago, after the storms of 1965. Larry Commers has volunteered with the commission since 1969 and became Chairman in 1976, a position he still holds today. “Fridley’s HRA was established to assist the

rehabilitation of properties destroyed and damaged in the tornadoes that came through and devastated several neighborhoods and businesses,” says Commers.

After that initial rebuilding, the HRA became fairly inactive until 1974. “At that time, the HRA became more broadly focused on maximizing undeveloped or under-utilized land in Fridley,” describes Commers of those early days. “By undertaking many major developments, it has had a major impact on creating significant market values and tax benefits for the City.”

Today we can physically see the benefits of our HRA. Since its creation, the HRA has continuously worked to improve the City’s housing stock, increase property values and assist with redevelopment. In the past 30 years, HRA redevelopment projects have generated

HRA, continued on page 8



20% Off

All Non-Sale Wine
Valid at Fridley Liquor

No limits. No other discounts apply. Good while supplies last

15% Off

Total Non-Sale Purchase
Valid at Fridley Liquor

No limits. No other discounts apply. Good while supplies last



Pictured left to right:
Moranda Zimmer, Hannah Rybak, Alexis Raverty, Alec DeBar, Johnathan Olson

Meet Our Summer Interns

In the Summer of 1998, Lori Skotterud interned with our Code Enforcement Division. She brought forth fresh ideas and excitement. Flash forward to 2014 and she is now the Community Development Director for Palos Park, Illinois. Our own Community Development Director Scott Hickok has kept in touch and could not be more proud of her accomplishments. Lori is one of many success stories that started by interning with Fridley.

For over fifteen years, interns with the City have played a huge part in improving our community and stretching our resources. Internships typically last 10-16 weeks, traditionally in the summer months, and interns commit to a 40-hour work week during that time period. They provide the City with much-needed manpower during our most active months, and provide the students with real-world working experience and references as they continue towards career goals.

“Coming from a small town, I wanted to get the experience with a larger city government. This internship offered excellent experience working with both the City Clerk and City Manager that is needed to be successful in the area of public administration,” explains Moranda Zimmer, currently interning in the City Manager’s office. She plans to attend graduate school this fall and hopes to continue working in the public sector.

Moranda is one of five interns currently working at Fridley. One of her primary areas of focus is in elections. “I do see success in the program, not only for the City but also for the intern,” says City Clerk Deb Skogen. “Having the hands-on experience will give her a perspective other students may not have. This experience will help provide a base they can continue to grow from, to help them decide if it is the career path they want to take.”

Our current code enforcement intern, Hannah Rybak, has one of the busiest jobs in the City. During her 13 weeks here, Hannah’s role is to inspect the exterior of each residence, including apartment buildings. “This is no small task,” explains City Planning Manager Julie Jones. “There are approximately 7,400 single family homes and about 1,000 more multiple unit properties to inspect. That means she is trying to inspect over

100 properties a day! People sometimes get angry about getting an impersonal letter and wish she would just come knock on their door, but if she took time to do that, she wouldn’t be able to inspect as many properties.” In addition to physically performing inspections, Hannah also completes data entry on each visit and sends educational letters to property owners when the need arises. She also follows up with violations and works with the owner or city/county staff on resolutions.

Alexis Raverty is interning with Fridley’s Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA). She is also providing key manpower that is essential to the City’s growth. “Alexis plays a key role in establishing the City’s Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E),” describes Paul Bolin, Assistant Executive Director of the Fridley HRA. “She surveyed and visited a number of businesses to learn from them what the City can do to help their business grow. The work Alexis is doing this summer will allow the City to continue building relationships with our business community.” You can read more about our new BR&E program in this newsletter.

The Engineering Department is also utilizing interns in their large 2014 Street Rehabilitation Project. Johnathan Olson joins the City this summer, and Alec DeBar returns to help guide the 3.4 miles of street improvements in the northern end of Fridley. This project includes strengthening and replacing street pavement, spot replacement of curbing, drainage improvements and utility repairs.

“Being a mentor brings value and added purpose to our City employees, and interns bring excitement about their field of study along with new trends, energy and enthusiasm,” says Human Resources Director Deborah Dahl. “It helps build community relationships, in both the public and private sectors, as these interns enter the working world. We help develop future government workers, and they may help us find qualified recruits for future positions and internships.”

We thank all our current and past interns for being an essential part of Fridley. If you are interested in a future internship with the City, watch for postings on our website at www.FridleyMN.gov. ■



Fall Recycling Drop-Off

October 11 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
City of Fridley Public Works • 400 71st Ave NE

Fridley Residents: Don’t miss this chance to get rid of old fluorescent tubes, electronics, appliances, scrap metal, car batteries, small engines (lawn mowers), bicycles and more. Charges apply to larger items.

Questions? Give us a call at 763-572-3594 or visit online at www.FridleyMN.gov/recycling

Determining Property Value

As we approach the final days of summer, our thoughts turn to back-to-school shopping, a State Fair corndog, and even colder temps. For City, County and School Districts, it means budget planning, and the arrival of your annual Truth in Taxation Notice statement.

So what is a Truth in Taxation Notice?

This notice is the final stage of the assessment process. It takes the value of your home and produces an estimated tax bill for 2015. Also included are the date, location and time of budget hearings at the City, County and School Districts. Here you can share concerns about spending and taxes.

The property tax process begins with the assessor’s estimate of your home’s value. This estimate is always effective as of January 2 in any given year, and is a product of careful study of the real estate market to identify market trends for like properties. This year, residential values are still increasing, but not at the record pace of last year. These market trends are one of three factors that determine the property value.

The second and third factors involve the assessor’s visit. As you may have noticed, the assessor visits your neighborhood once every five years to review property information that is used to value your home every year. They also visit homes that have pulled permits that will affect values, such as remodeling a kitchen or demolition. They verify things like condition, quality of construction, number of bedrooms and number of bathrooms. The estimated value is then communicated to the homeowner in March and the homeowner has the opportunity to review the estimate and ask for clarification if they feel the estimate is not accurate. There are also two Boards of Appeal that a property owner can attend if there are still concerns.

The assessor looks at the entire property, as well as similar properties in the area, and may make adjustments based on criteria shown to affect value in the market. These adjustments are applied equally to similar properties. If you have questions regarding your property value, the best place to start is calling your local assessor.

For Fridley residential properties, please contact Pat Maghrak at 763-572-3536 or by email at Pat.Maghrak@FridleyMN.gov. For Fridley commercial/industrial properties, please contact Mary Smith at 763-572-3537 or by email at Mary.Smith@FridleyMN.gov. ■



Garbage Cans in the Yard – Why Do We Care?

Garbage cans in the front yard; flat tires on a car; some old furniture in the yard, uncut grass –why does the City care?

“We believe that decline is infectious,” says Community Development Director Scott Hickok. When one property goes downhill, the rest of the neighborhood can rapidly lose inspiration. But under systematic enforcement, community standards are regularly made clear and results are positive; about 75% of violations are resolved after the first notice. “Our goal is to educate residents,” Scott explains.

What is systematic code enforcement?

Each year, intensive property-by-property inspections are undertaken by one or two summer interns who aim to cover the entire city within 13 weeks. Fridley began this practice in 1997, and the entire city has benefitted from this proactive approach. First, it results in public awareness. Second, it eliminates the blame game. Fridley residents who receive a violation notice do not need to worry that a neighbor is causing their property to be targeted. This helps quell the animosity among neighbors that complaint-only enforcement can cause.

City Councilmember Bob Barnette was Fridley’s first code inspector, at that time referred to as the “Weed Inspector.” He believes in the City’s approach. “It is part of being a responsible city, and it is extremely important that we continue.” He is active in the community and says that the bulk of residents agree. “Most of the feedback I hear is very, very positive.”

Common Code Issues

The placement of solid waste containers and outdoor storage represents 65% of notices. Solid waste containers can be outside and in view of the street, provided they are not in the front yard. Front yard is defined as the area between the front-most building edge and the street.

Outdoor storage must be in the side or rear yard. Code allows for neatly stacked firewood, a trailer or a boat. Items such as extension ladders, lumber (not associated with a current building permit), and machinery are not permitted.

Other categories where violations have been noted include inoperable or unlicensed vehicles openly stored, weeds or long grass, and brush piles.

We all want to be part of a beautiful, growing community. Code enforcement is one of many steps we take to make sure Fridley is a vibrant and stable home for families and businesses. If you have any questions or concerns about code enforcement, contact the Planning Division at 763-572-3592 or by email at DL-Planning@FridleyMN.gov.

The Little Free Library

If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.

–Ralph Waldo Emerson

On the quiet street of Stinson Blvd., John Gannon sits on his front step and watches as children, joggers and neighbors stop briefly at his curb, and he smiles.

For some, a love for people, for learning, for children and for their job transcends a 40-hour work week. For some, their passion spreads through all parts of life and extends to everyone within their reach. Jane Ann Gannon was one of those people.

The Gannons moved to Fridley in 1969, and today Mr. Gannon still lives here with pride. His late wife, Jane Ann, worked as a librarian in the Fridley Schools for over 25 years. Her legacy lives on through the “Little Free Library” that stands simply in their lawn.

Last Christmas, John Gannon, Jr., gave his mother a present that touched her heart so completely that even as she fell ill, she kept it near her. It was a beautiful wooden house with doors, larger than a birdhouse, smaller than a dollhouse, and clearly built with love. She passed away on May 1, and a month later her family decided to share that gift with the community.



Sara and Reese, both 9 years old, walked from a few houses down to add a book and find a new one. “It’s cool,” says Sara, “better than actually buying a book.”

Another young neighbor, 9-year old Katya, found Jane Ann’s recipe book in that library. The next day, she and her mother brought Mr. Gannon specially baked éclairs. “I thought that it would be very touching to give John some eclairs so that he knew I remembered his wife,” says Katya of the beginner cookbook she found in the library. A small gesture that made a big impact. “Thanks to the book and the Little Free Library, I have a new hobby of cooking.”

For John Gannon, Sr., the Little Free Library stands as a daily tribute to the woman he so dearly loved. For the community, the passion of an educator continues to teach the art of learning and a lesson in sharing, a lesson that is not lost on the Gannon’s neighbors. ■



“Neighbors came and went, even in the rain,” says John Gannon, Jr., Family members and neighbors honored Jane Ann on June 7 with a ribbon cutting at the grand opening of her Little Free Library, the same

AfterSchool

Programs at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary
Recreation activities to do when the school day ends. 3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Back-to-School Special
Sign up for one class and get the second class at HALF price!

Mummy's love the Halloween Party!

Kids love After-school Craft Classes!

Fridley's Recreation After-School Program offers something for everyone! Check out our website for more information and class offerings.
www.FridleyMN.gov • 763-572-3570



Neighborhood Feature: Meadowmoor

When entering Meadowmoor Neighborhood you may drive down one of the newly paved roads, notice the tree-lined sidewalks, and spot houses both old and new. Like many neighborhoods, it is the people inside these homes that make Meadowmoor a special place to live. Claire Montenegro, a fairly new Meadowmoor resident, made the right choice. “It’s the people that make living here so enjoyable. Some have lived here their entire lives and others like me, who have young children, plan on raising our family here.”



Being outdoors is easy in this neighborhood with the many attractions close by. Flanery Park is a common place to go for the day to enjoy the open space and the fun playground equipment. “This park is great because it is close enough to walk to, and it is an awesome place for the kids to meet others their age within the neighborhood, and for us adults to get to know others, too,” says Claire. “Another really great attraction close by is the Foot Bridge. It is located in Spring Lake Park, but is close enough to this area to go and take a walk over.”

Working together as a neighborhood has been very easy, as everyone is willing to help out. Kelly Shoberg, a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, describes how the neighborhood works together, whether it is a neighborhood garage sale or just keeping each other safe. “It has been a long time since we have had to inform the neighborhood of an issue, which is a very good thing. Everyone keeps an eye out for each other, and we would know if a strange car was in the area.”

The quiet and quaint features of the Meadowmoor Neighborhood have attracted young families to move into the area, and have given others a reason to stay — a mix unique to the area and a wonderful representation of our great city. ■

Does your neighborhood have a story?
Share it with us!
Call the City Communications Specialist at
763-572-3505 or
Raquel.Strand@FridleyMN.gov.
You can take a look at a map of all
Fridley neighborhoods at
www.FridleyMN.gov/maps/general

Banfill-Locke Center Gets Creepy

The former tavern and farmhouse now housing the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts has a reputation for being haunted, and with a history that dates back to the mid-1800s, it just might be. Come explore the lore at the *Art of Darkness: Inspired by the Paranormal* exhibition that runs August 30 through September 27. The show features over 100 paranormal-inspired works of art from artists across the globe.

If you want to explore your dark side even more, join them on Monday, September 8 at 7 p.m. for a free event hosted by Twin Cities Paranormal Research & Investigation. Learn more about the history of the Banfill Tavern and see what evidence has been collected during their time at the center.

Still want more? Limited tickets are available to join TCPRI for a BBQ and night investigation. The fee for this 4-hour ghost-hunt is \$50.

For more information or to register for any of these fascinating events, visit www.banfill-locke.org. ■



December 9 1731 in Florence Italy
by Elizabeth Kauffman



Be on the lookout for
FRIDLEY’S NEW BIKE LANE!



Our first dedicated bike lane is now available on the west side of Main Street, starting at the Fridley Northstar Train Station at 61st Avenue and running south to 57th Avenue.

This is part of a larger project to be completed in 2016. At that time, residents south of I-694 in the Main Street area will have safer walking/biking access to key parts of the City.



Inspector Todd

When a Fridley officer is promoted to Inspector, he is pinned with a small insignia that represents big meaning. The Inspector pin is a shield around a diamond, and on June 17, Officer Andrew Todd was awarded this distinction in a small, meaningful ceremony at City Hall. His wife Heather pinned on his new badge and collar brass.

According to Fridley’s Director of Public Safety Don Abbott, Inspector Todd is the right cut for this job, as represented in the diamond on his pin. “The traditional measures of a diamond are clarity, color and cut. Clarity – the Inspector position requires a person with a clear vision of what is needed, to identify, prevent and resolve issues. Color – one of the qualities of color is tone. The Inspector is challenged to set the tone for their unit. Cut – the Inspector position requires a person who is cut out for the job and its challenges.”

The shield is a universal symbol of police. It represents protection, but also leadership, identity, purpose and faithfulness dating back to ancient times. The Inspector is expected to protect the City, know their purpose and be faithful to our values. We congratulate Inspector Todd in his new role and look forward to his integral leadership in the Information Services Unit. ■



Now Recruiting Fridley Police Reserves

- Are you...?
- Interested in law enforcement?
 - Want to make your community a better place to live, work or play?
 - Are you 20+ years old with a clean background and driving record?
 - Able to commit 8 hours/month and attend monthly meetings?

Volunteer Reserve Officers assist by patrolling in marked police cars, transporting prisoners, identifying problem areas, helping with traffic control at events and accidents, providing security at City functions, and serving as another set of eyes in the community.

To learn more, contact Sergeant Jeff Guest at 763-502-1965 or visit us online at www.FridleyMN.gov/police.

Safety Camp Celebrates 20 Years

“Whereas, Fridley Safety Camp was created in 1995 to teach our community’s children skills to keep them safe, including water safety, home & fire safety, poisoning, electrical hazards, and bicycle & traffic safety; and Whereas, Liz Chevalier introduced Safety Camp to the City of Fridley, and has been the driving force behind it for 20 years...”

June 18, 2014 was Liz Chevalier Safety Camp Day in the City of Fridley, as proclaimed by Mayor Scott Lund at the closing ceremonies for this year’s Safety Camp.

For 20 years, Fridley Safety Camp has thrived with enrollment reaching and exceeding the 150 attendance goal each and every year. In fact, that first year in 1995, registrations filled within 3 days. In total, over 3,000 children have attended Fridley Safety Camp over the years.



Liz Chevalier proposed the idea of Safety Camp to City leaders after visiting a similar event in Eden Prairie, the only Safety Camp in the state at that time. Fridley became the first city in Anoka County and the second in the state of Minnesota to provide this type of activity. Safety Camp started as a zero budget endeavor, and that remains true today. It is funded 100% through donations from community businesses and made possible by volunteers. Each year, a minimum of 6 police officers, 6 firefighters, 3 Recreation staff and 3-4 Allina medics serve as counselors. In addition, many seniors help out as counselors or with checking kids in/out each day and wherever else they are needed. Margaret



Tschkaekofske, 91 years young, is still an active volunteer. At the end of camp this year when everyone went home to rest, Margaret went on a 3-mile hike! She is just one of many volunteers still going strong with years of dedicated service.

Each year, 1,600-2,000 children between the ages of 5 and 14 die of accidental injuries and several hundred thousand more are injured. The goal of Fridley’s two-day Safety Camp is to teach children valuable skills to keep them safe in a variety of emergency situations. They have fun, make friends, learn new things, get fitted with their own bike helmets and go home with knowledge that may someday save a life. Parents agree. As one parent expressed, “It makes us as a family aware of the safety we ignore daily.”

Safety Camp is made possible through the joint efforts of the Fridley Police, Fire and Recreation Departments, coordinated by Liz, and through partnerships she has made with area businesses and groups. Sponsors such as McDonald’s, Bob’s Produce, Perkins, Arctic Glacier Ice, Fridley Lions, Kiwanis and Frito Lay have seen supporters for many years. More recent supporters include Anoka County Safe kids, Dunn Bros Coffee, Friendly Chevrolet, Fridley Fire Auxiliary, Pickle Park, Schmit Towing and Voigt’s Bus Service. Together these groups have made a difference, and we thank them for twenty years of Safety Camp success. ■



AugustFest 2014 Fridley Historical Society

Wednesday, August 13, 6 p.m.
Outdoors at the History Center – 611 Mississippi Street Northeast

- City Band
- Treats
- Fridley Ambassadors
- Face Painting
- Fire Truck
- Trivia





Professionalism

Police Dispatcher
T-shirt Collector
Firefighter



Compassionate

Husband
Golfer
Firefighter



Integrity

Mom
Gardener
Firefighter



Dedicated

Teacher
Fisherman
Firefighter

Get Fired Up! Your Time is Now.

Meet our firefighters. Renee is a mom; James is a teacher; Matt is a sprinkler fitter; Todd is a police dispatcher; Dave is a machinist.

They live and work in the community. They have families and jobs. They are just like you. And they are heroes.

“I joined the Fire Department in addition to my full-time job for the added retirement benefit,” says Lieutenant Todd Messer. “I don’t find it to be a hard balance, and I absolutely love it.”

Paid, on-call firefighters in Fridley commit to training once a week on either a Monday evening or Tuesday morning. They are on shift up to 20 hours per month, and respond from home to 30% of emergency calls. People join for many reasons. For some, it is a way to give back and serve the community. For others, firefighting is a family tradition. For everyone, it offers challenges, variety and the reward of making a difference in people’s lives. “Everything we go on is different,” explains Messer. “Each call is different—different situations with different dynamics. It’s fun. It’s exciting.”

Fire Captain Renee Hamdorf has been with the department for almost 15 years. In addition to putting out fires, Renee has delivered a baby and helped rescue

memorable adventure was kicking down his neighbor’s door to perform a search for victims during a kitchen fire. Dave Larson, a machinist and paid, on-call firefighter, once pulled a three-year-old out of an upstairs bedroom fire and has saved a life by performing CPR. These skills and experiences are all part of the job, and it all started with the first step.

You can take that first step, too, by attending our Recruiting Fair on Wednesday, August 20 from 7-9 p.m. This is a 2-hour event for adults (18+) interested in fire fighting. You will get a taste for the job with demonstrations, hands-on learning, the opportunity to test different skills, try on gear and, most importantly, talk to current firefighters about their experiences and how firefighting fits into their everyday lives. Fridley is not hiring any full-time Fire positions at this time, but we are seeking qualified paid, on-call fighters, especially those with emergency response or fire experience. You must live within a 6-minute response time from one of our three fire stations.

For more information on our recruiting fair or paid, on-call positions, contact us at 763-572-3612 or FridleyFire@FridleyMN.gov. ■

Fridley Fire Core Values:

Integrity

Professionalism

Accountable

Ethical

Dedicated

Disciplined

Respectful

Compassionate

Honor

a Clydesdale horse, as well as numerous other animals. James Lange is a full-time teacher and has been a paid, on-call firefighter with Fridley for two years. His most



Fridley Fire Department Welcomes Engine 3

A new tradition began in Fridley on June 7 when the Fire Department dedicated their new truck into service with a “Wet Down” ceremony. Mother Nature even offered a helping hand while Captain Kim Herrmann sprayed down the truck, which was then towel-dried by the dedicated Station 3 firefighters. Lieutenant Todd Messer led the ceremonies, including the Presentation of Colors from the Fire Explorers and a hymn from the MN State Fire Service Memorial Pipe Band. The dedication concluded with the long-standing tradition of pushing the engine into the station. Engine 3 has all the equipment needed to combat a structure fire, respond to medical emergencies or deal with any number of emergency calls. We look forward to this new engine keeping residents safe for the next 20 years. ■

Save the Date!



Annual Fridley Fire Department Open House

Saturday, October 4, 2014

All ages are welcome at our annual Fire Open House on Saturday, October 4.

Look for details coming soon on our website at www.FridleyMN.gov.

Siren Upgrades Address Your Concerns

We usually see natural disasters and national emergencies from a distance, and most of us want to believe it always happens somewhere else. For those who lived in or near Fridley in 1965, this is not true. They witnessed disaster first-hand when violent tornados tore across the city, destroying one in four homes. Then in the summer of 1986, Fridley was hit again. This time, a tornado touchdown spent 16 long minutes devastating the Springbrook Nature Center.

It is no wonder that outdoor warning sirens are a big concern for Fridley residents. When they are not working properly, people take notice. The City of Fridley currently has eight outdoor Federal Signal Siren units installed in the city. These 127-decibel sirens were purchased in 1988. Sirens are silently tested daily, and audibly sounded on the first Wednesday of every month. Over the past few years, the City has started to see an increase in failures and maintenance costs to our siren system.

The safety of our City, its residents, buildings and businesses, is our top concern. We evaluated the equipment, placement, sound levels and direction, and the research determined that 95% of the issues resulted from outdated controller equipment. Basically, each of the eight sirens consists of two parts: First is the controller box that receives the signal from Anoka County emergency management officials to sound the siren, and the second is the siren head at the top of the post that emits that sound. The City has taken immediate action to protect its residents and all eight controller boxes were replaced mid-June of this year. They are now testing with 100% perfect accuracy.

Over the next two years, each of the siren heads will also be replaced. Together, these upgrades will ensure functionality for 20 to 30 years. It is our hope that



they are not needed, but it is our responsibility to ensure that they are ready.

As the upcoming months carry the risk of severe weather, there are several things that you can do to be prepared.

- Use a weather radio. These can be programmed specifically for Anoka County warnings.
- Learn two ways out of every room.
- Know the safest room in event of a tornado (basement, lower interior room with no windows, bathtub, etc). Make sure your children know where to go.
- Choose a meeting spot (one near your home and one outside your neighborhood).
- Keep your family’s contact information with you. In an emergency, in may be easier to text than to call, as emergency workers may need the phone lines.
- Have an out-of-town or out-of-area contact for all family members to text, call or email as a way of keeping track of family members in case of separation.
- Build an emergency kit. There should be enough food, water, clothing and supplies to last for at least three days.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit our website at www.FridleyMN.gov. ■

Nature Center Receives Grant, *continued from page 1*

According to Nature Center Director Mike Maher, “As a staff, we are incredibly excited to look ahead at fun and educational exhibits, expanded classroom space for our programs and to be able to share this amazing natural area with an expanded audience.”

While the new interpretive center will be the immediate priority, the SPRING Project also includes plans for a new picnic pavilion, outdoor classrooms, a nature-based play area, an amphitheater and a landscaped memorial plaza. The Springbrook Nature Center foundation is currently launching a fundraising


campaign to raise the additional three million dollars that will be needed to complete the vision. Exciting opportunities for community involvement include a message walkway. You will have a chance to be a part of the new design by purchasing an engraved paver with a personal message or dedication that will be incorporated into the all new Springbrook Nature Center.

For the most up-to-date information on the project, visit springbrooknaturecenter.org or the Nature Center’s Facebook page. ■

BANFILL LOCKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS...

ART at RICE CREEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2014 ~ 10AM TO 4PM



IN THE BANFILL TAVERN BUILDING & MANOMIN PARK
6666 EAST RIVER ROAD, FRIDLEY, MN

Visit www.banfill-locke.org or call (763)574-1850 for more information.

Fridley Community Calendar

August

- 4 Parks & Recreation Commission
- 5 Night to Unite
- 6 Appeals Commission
- 7 Housing & Redevelopment Authority
- 11 City Council Meeting
- 20 Planning Commission
- 25 City Council Meeting

September

- 1 City Offices Closed in Observance Labor Day
- 3 Appeals Commission
- 4 Housing & Redevelopment Authority
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 8 Parks and Recreation Commission
- 9 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 17 Planning Commission
- 22 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Municipal Center, 6431 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 at least one week in advance.

HRA, *continued from page 2*

almost \$300 million in new taxable market value, and that number is growing with each new project. In fact, Northern Stacks and The Cielo Apartments (projects currently underway) are expected to generate an additional \$100 million in taxable market value for the City.

Another program within the HRA is the Housing Replacement Program. Since it started, the HRA has replaced 37 blighted properties with new homes. They also offer low interest home improvement loans and a remodeling advisor service, which has helped many residents upgrade and improve their homes. The look and value of entire neighborhoods can be affected by one struggling property, which makes this program an essential tool for the City. We have seen these efforts revitalize neighborhoods, and inspire other homeowners to make improvements as well.

The Fridley HRA consists of five volunteer members appointed by the Mayor and City Council. Current volunteers include Chairman Larry Commers, Vice Chair Pat Gabel, Gordon Backlund, Bill Holm and Stephen Eggert. “My role as Chair,” explains Commers, “is to work closely with City staff and the committee members to develop policy and consensus, implement plans to create new development projects and jobs, encourage rehabilitation and remodeling of existing properties, and to provide housing replacement and remodeling programs for residents.” A tall order, but one he has seen many years of success with. During his tenure, Commers has been a part of early projects, such as Johnson Printing, and extending to more recent successes such as the Fridley Northstar Commuter Rail Station. Other favorites include the Center City Project, Medtronic and Christenson Crossing.

We thank the entire HRA for their time and efforts toward continual improvements in Fridley. If you have questions on HRA programs or want to explore options for improving your home, please visit www.FridleyMN.gov/HRA. ■